Modernization of para-military forces

4520. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to modernize the para-military forces;

(b) what new technologies are being introduced for the modernization process; and

(c) how much budget is allocated for the modernization process and how much was spent in the process during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A modernization plan for para-military forces which includes providing them superior arms and ammunitions, strategic equipment, effective transport vehicles, state-of-the-art communication, surveillance and body guarding systems, is under implementation.

(b) The latest and modern technologies in respect of various items as mentioned in part (a) are being introduced for the modernization process.

(c) The expenditure on modernization is met out of the regular provisioning budget provided to the para-military forces. During the last 3 years (2004—07), the total budget allocated for provisioning was Rs. 4654.72 crore and out of this an amount of Rs. 1292.34 crore was spent on modernization.

Padma Awards to medical science persons

4521. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Padma Awards were given to some medical science persons this year;

(b) the details of these awards;

(c) whether Unani and Ayurveda practitioners/experts felt left out and neglected *vis-a-vis* Allopathic practitioners in these awards;